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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

NINETY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Acting Chairman: Mr. Ricardo ALARCON de QUESADA (Cuba)

1. The Working Group held its 135th meeting on 15 August 1991.

1. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. In connection with the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, the Working Group recalled that the General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Assembly directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

3. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should consider accepting one or more invitations that may be extended in 1992 and that, if it decides to accept a given invitation, the Committee should request the Secretary-General to seek to allocate the necessary funds.

2. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Working Group proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee should continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization and recommended that the Assembly should make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1992.

3. Pattern of conferences

5. The Working Group noted that during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 45/238 of 21 December 1990. By organizing its programme of work effectively and by holding extensive consultations and working in informal session, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Working Group recommended that the Special Committee should continue to pursue its efforts to limit its demands on the conference-servicing resources and to avoid as far as possible last-minute cancellation of scheduled meetings.

6. The Working Group decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1992, the Committee should consider holding its meetings according to the following schedule:

(a)	Plenary	
	February/June	As required
	July/August	20 meetings (5 meetings a week)
(b)	Subsidiary body	
	March/June	30 meetings (3 to 5 meetings a week)
	July	As required

7. It was understood that this programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1992, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of new developments that might arise. The Working Group recommended that subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee should strive to keep its meetings to a minimum.

4. Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979 and 39/68 of 13 December 1984. Those

measures included the circulation of its documents in provisional or unofficial form whenever appropriate. The Working Group recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee should streamline its report to the General Assembly.

5. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

9. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should continue consideration of this question at its next session, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give at its forty-sixth session.

6. International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

10. With regard to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Committee should authorize the Chairman to consult with and assist the Secretary-General in the preparation and implementation of the draft plan of action to be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988.

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

11. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the seminars organized by the Committee in Vanuatu and Barbados in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should consider, in cooperation with administering Powers, means of increasing the participation of those Territories in its work, particularly in the meetings of its Subcommittee. The Special Committee would be expected to maintain in its budget proposals, its traditional estimates regarding this issue.

8. Seminar at United Nations Headquarters

12. In 1990, the Special Committee decided to postpone to 1991 the seminar at Headquarters provided for in General Assembly resolution 44/100 of 11 December 1989 on the Programme of Activities in observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration. The postponement would enable the Committee to study a proposal by some non-governmental organizations that participants in the seminar include representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves, especially young people.

13. The proposed seminar received further consideration at a meeting of the expanded Bureau held on 6 August 1991 when the view was expressed that, since little was known about the non-governmental organizations involved, more information would be needed before a decision could be made.

14. In the light of the foregoing, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that the holding of a seminar should be further postponed. In the meantime, the Secretariat should be requested to obtain more information regarding the non-governmental organizations involved and alternative proposals for a seminar should be formulated.

9. Follow-up to the seminars organized in 1990 by the Special Committee in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration

15. The seminars held in Vanuatu and Barbados in 1990 emphasized, inter alia, the need for the Special Committee to reassess its approach and methodology with regard to the implementation of its mandate. As a consequence, in 1991, the Committee decided to streamline its procedures by merging its two subcommittees into one body in order to deal with the problems of individual Territories in a more focused way.

16. Recognizing that reform is an ongoing process, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it should continue to consider new ways to make its work more effective, including giving consideration of all recommendations made by the seminars held in 1990, particularly those focusing on opening new channels for disseminating and acquiring information and, in this context, that it should consider ways and means of improving regional collection and dissemination of information on decolonization.